

Wisconsin Forward Exam Scribing Guidelines



A scribe is an adult who writes down what a student dictates via speech, American Sign Language, or an assistive communication device. The guiding principle in scribing is to ensure that the student has access to and is able to respond to test content.

Scribes are allowable on the Forward Exam as a documented designated support for ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies. Translators who scribe student responses from a native language to English should translate word-for-word to the extent possible for all content areas except Text Dependent Analysis (TDAs) items. The TDA must be communicated to the scribe in English by the student, and scribed in English. The TDA measures composition, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling as well as citing evidence and the use of textual support. Therefore, a student must dictate their response exactly as it is to be written. For information on documentation requirements and decision-making criteria for use of scribes and all other supports please see the Accessibility Guidelines.

Qualifications for Scribes

- The scribe should be an adult who is familiar with the student, such as the teacher or teaching assistant who is typically responsible for scribing during educational instruction and assessments.
- Scribes must have demonstrated knowledge and experience in the subject for which scribing will be provided.
- Scribes should have extensive practice and training in accordance with the administration of the Forward Exam including accessibility policies, security policies and procedures as articulated in test administration manuals, guidelines, and related documentation.

Preparation

- Scribes must read and sign a test security/confidentiality agreement prior to test administration.
- Scribes are expected to familiarize themselves with the test format in advance of the scribing session. Having a working familiarity with the test environment will help facilitate the scribe's ability to record the student's answers.
- Scribes should be familiar with the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan if the student for whom they are scribing has a disability, so that there are plans in place for providing all needed designated supports and accommodations.
- Scribes should have a strong working knowledge of the embedded and non-embedded accessibility and accommodations options and features available on the Forward Exam.
- Scribes should review these Scribing Guidelines for the Forward Exam with the student at least one to two days prior to the test event.

- Scribes should practice the scribing process with the student at least once prior to the scribing session using the Online Tools Training.

General Guidelines

- Scribing must be administered so that the interaction between a scribe and a student does not interrupt other test-takers, or inadvertently reveal the student's answers.
- If not in a separate setting, the scribe should be situated near enough to the student to prevent their conversations from reaching other students in the room.
- Scribes must enter student responses directly into the test interface, making use of the embedded and non-embedded tools available for a given item and student.
- Scribes are expected to comply with student requests regarding use of all available features within the test environment.
- Scribes may respond to procedural questions asked by the student (e.g., test directions, navigation within the test environment, etc.).
- Scribes may not respond to student questions about test items if their responses compromise validity of the test. The student must not be prompted, reminded, or otherwise assisted in formulating his or her response during or after the dictation to the scribe.
- Scribes may ask the student to restate words or parts as needed. Such requests must not be communicated in a manner suggesting that the student should make a change or correction.
- Scribes may not question or correct student choices, alert students to errors or mistakes, prompt or influence students in any way that might compromise the integrity of student responses. A scribe may not edit or alter student work in any way, and must record exactly what the student has dictated.
- Students must be allowed to review and edit what the scribe has written. If necessary, the student can request the scribe to read aloud the completed text before final approval.

English Language Arts

Multiple choice Items (Single and Multiple Answer)

- The student must point to or otherwise indicate his/her selection(s) from the options provided
- Scribes are expected to comply with student directions regarding screen and test navigation and use of test platform features available for a given item
- The student will confirm the selected answer and indicate to the scribe when he/she is ready to move to the next item

TDA (Essay or Full-Write)

- The scribe will write verbatim student responses on paper or on screen in an area obstructed from other students' view.
- The TDA items must be scribed in English.
- The student must dictate their response exactly as it is to be written.
- The scribe will spell all words as dictated by the student.
- The scribe will not capitalize words or punctuate text without the student's direction.
- The student will proofread to add punctuation, capitalization, spacing, and other edits.
- The scribe will make student requested changes, even if incorrect.
- The student will confirm the fidelity of the response.
- The student will indicate to the scribe when he/she is ready to move to the next item.
- Scribes should request clarification from the student about the use of capitalization, punctuation, and the spelling of words, and must allow the student to review and edit what the scribe has written.

Mathematics

Selected-Response Items

- The student must point to or otherwise indicate his/her selection from the options provided.
- The scribe will comply with student directions, including requests regarding screen and test navigation and use of test platform features available for the question.
- The student will confirm his/her selections and indicate to the scribe when he/she is ready to move to the next item.

Short Answer Response Items

- The student must point or otherwise direct the scribe in developing his/her response.
- The scribe will input student work directly onscreen and in view of the student.
- For responses requiring equations, the student must specify where to place figures and operands.
- The scribe will make student requested changes, even if incorrect.
- The student will confirm the fidelity of the response.
- The student will indicate to the scribe when he/she is ready to move to the next item.

Science and Social Studies:

Selected-Response Items

- The student must point to or otherwise indicate his/her selection from the options provided.
- The scribe will comply with student directions, including requests regarding screen and test navigation and use of test platform features available for the question.
- The student will confirm his/her selections and indicate to the scribe when he/she is ready to move to the next item.

Post Administration

The scribe will submit online or paper-based student responses and collect scratch paper, rough drafts, and login information immediately at the end of the testing session and deliver it to the test administrator in accordance with DPI policies and procedures.